

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 NEA-10 ARA-06 AF-08

AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /136 W
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R 070930Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO CIEC PARIS 1019

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JAKARTA 8889

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, ASEAN, ID

SUBJECT: NEW SIGNALS FROM GOI ON ASEAN AND LDC SOLIDARITY

REF: STATE 141388

1. GOI DIRECTOR GENERAL FOREIGN TRADE SUHADI TOLD
E/CM COUNSELOR JULY 3 THAT INDONESIA'S FIRST AND FOREMOST
LOYALTY WITHIN THE GROUP OF 77 IS TO ASEAN. SUHADI INTRO-
DUCED "ASEAN FIRST" CONCEPT DURING MEETING ON GOI VIEWS
ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS AT MTN (REFTEL). AS EXAMPLES OF
GOI'S SUPPORT FOR ASEAN, HE MENTIONED ASEAN'S COMPLE-
MENTARY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM; DISCUSSIONS ABOUT
ADJUSTING FAVORABLY TARIFFS AND OTHER TRADE BARRIERS

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WITHIN REGION; AND SUPPORT FOR ASEAN COUNTRIES' POSITIONS
AT ALL ASPECTS OF MTN TALKS. HE NOTED THAT AS CURRENTLY
OUTLINED, ASEAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IS MEANT TO
FIRST SATISFY REQUIREMENTS OF REGION AND ONLY THEN WILL

NON-ASEAN EXPORT MARKETS BE SOUGHT.

2. WITHOUT ALLUDING TO SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS APPARENTLY NEW DEFERENCE TO REGION FIRST AND ONLY SECONDARILY TO GROUP OF 77, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR POINTED OUT US SUPPORTATIVE OF ASEAN AND INDONESIA'S ROLE IN ITS AS BEING ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY IMPORTANT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL STABILIZATION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT US SUPPORT IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE AT A LONG ARM'S LENGTH SO AS NOT TO JEOPARDIZE ASEAN INDEPENDENT IDENTIFICATION AND THAT UPON REQUEST FROM ASEAN U.S. WOULD BE WILLING CONSIDER FAVORABLY OPPORTUNITY TO MEET IN FASHION SIMILAR TO THOSE MEETINGS HELD WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND GROUPS (EEC).

3. COMMENT: SUHADI IS A COMPETENT AND FRANK HIGH-LEVEL GOI OFFICIAL. HIS COMMENTS AND TONE CAN BE POSSIBLY CONSTRUED AS A SUBTLE BUT DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO GET A MESSAGE ACROSS. SUHADI DID NOT TOTALLY DISMISS GROUP OF 77 SOLIDARITY OR INDONESIA'S SHIFT TO THE MORE RADICAL MEMBERS OF THAT GROUP. NONETHELESS, HE CONVEYED, AT LEAST IN PRIVATE, A MORE PRAGMATIC GOI STANCE TOWARD DC-LDC RELATIONS. HE WAS MUCH LESS ACERBIC THAN USUAL IN DESCRIBING ABUSES OF DCS HEAPED UPON LDCS, AND LATTER'S STRUGGLE TO NARROW ECONOMIC GAP BETWEEN THE TWO. HIS UNSOLICITED STATEMENT ON REGIONAL LOYALTY SUGGESTS THAT INDONESIA, WHILE RECENTLY PUBLICALLY PROCLAIMING A HARD LINE, MAY IN PRIVATE BE LESS WILLING TO SACRIFICE BOTH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BENEFITS SIMPLY FOR SAKE OF LDC POLITICS. NEWSOM

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TAGS: ECIN, ID, ASEAN, GROUP OF 77
To: STATE INFO CIEC PARIS
BANGKOK
KUALA LUMPUR
MANILA
SINGAPORE
MEDAN

SURABAYA

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